

Historic, Archive Document

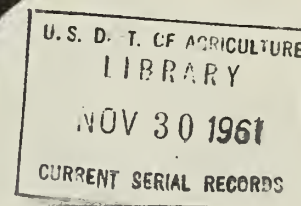
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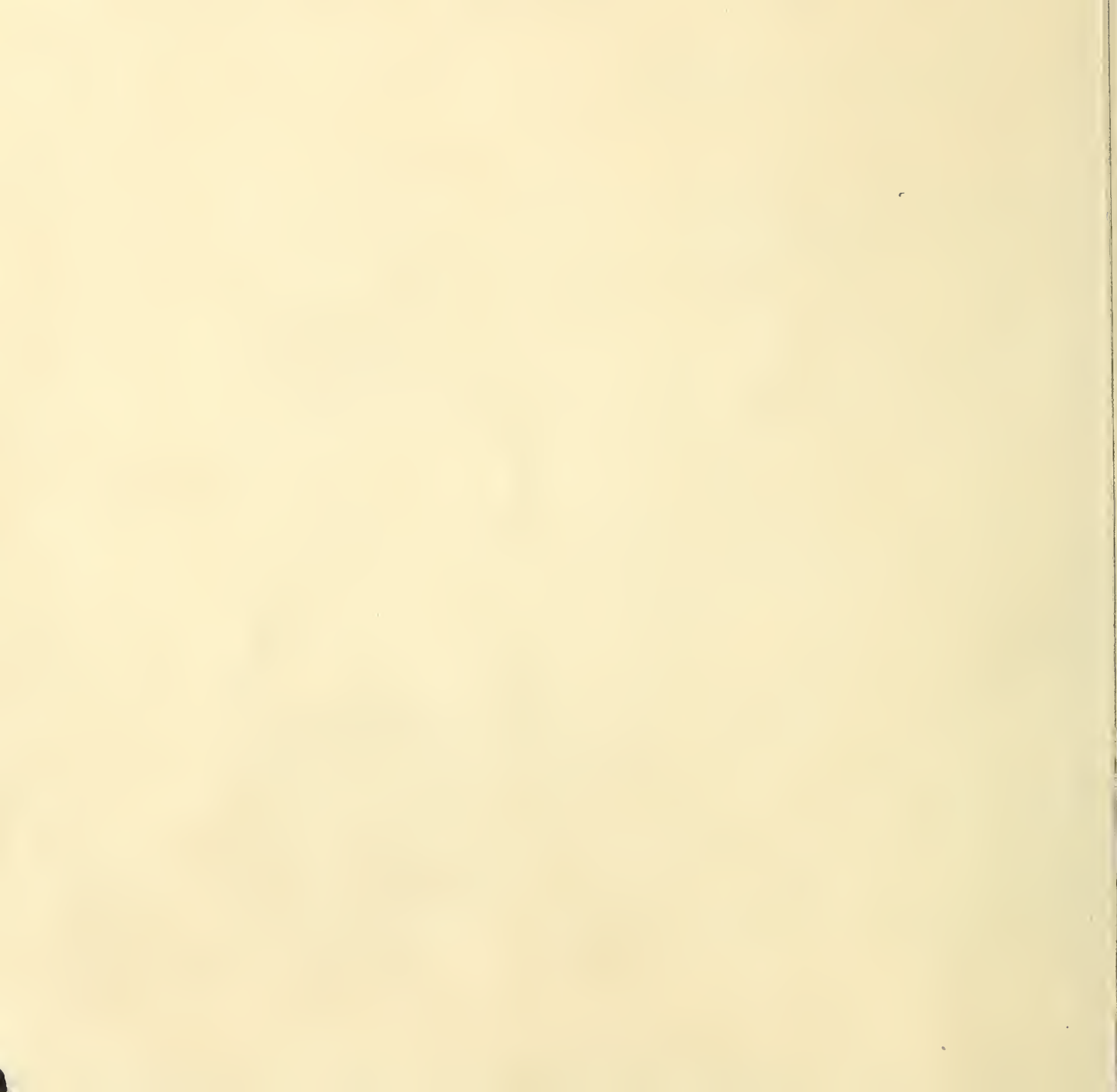
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Marketing Service
PA- 469 August 1961

THE
NATIONAL
SCHOOL
LUNCH
PROGRAM

Fifteen
Years of
Progress
1947-1961



6974





the history of school feeding

American origins of the school lunch program date back over 100 years. The first known feeding operation took place in New York city during 1853, sponsored by the Children's Aid Society, which provided free lunches to children in local industrial schools.

The last half of the nineteenth century saw but slight expansion of the school lunch principle. By 1900, only a handful of school lunch programs were in operation.

Major impetus was given to the program between 1905-1915. In addition to New York, a number of other large cities, plus rural regions in Minnesota, had introduced "penny" lunch programs.



A serving line—1921



Early school lunch posters

Lunch menus in elementary schools during the period immediately before and after World War I usually consisted of a single dish, such as soup and crackers, baked beans, stew, a rice or bread pudding, or a sandwich with milk.

At about this same time, the United States Department of Agriculture first prepared charts for schools, showing the elements of a balanced, wholesome lunch.

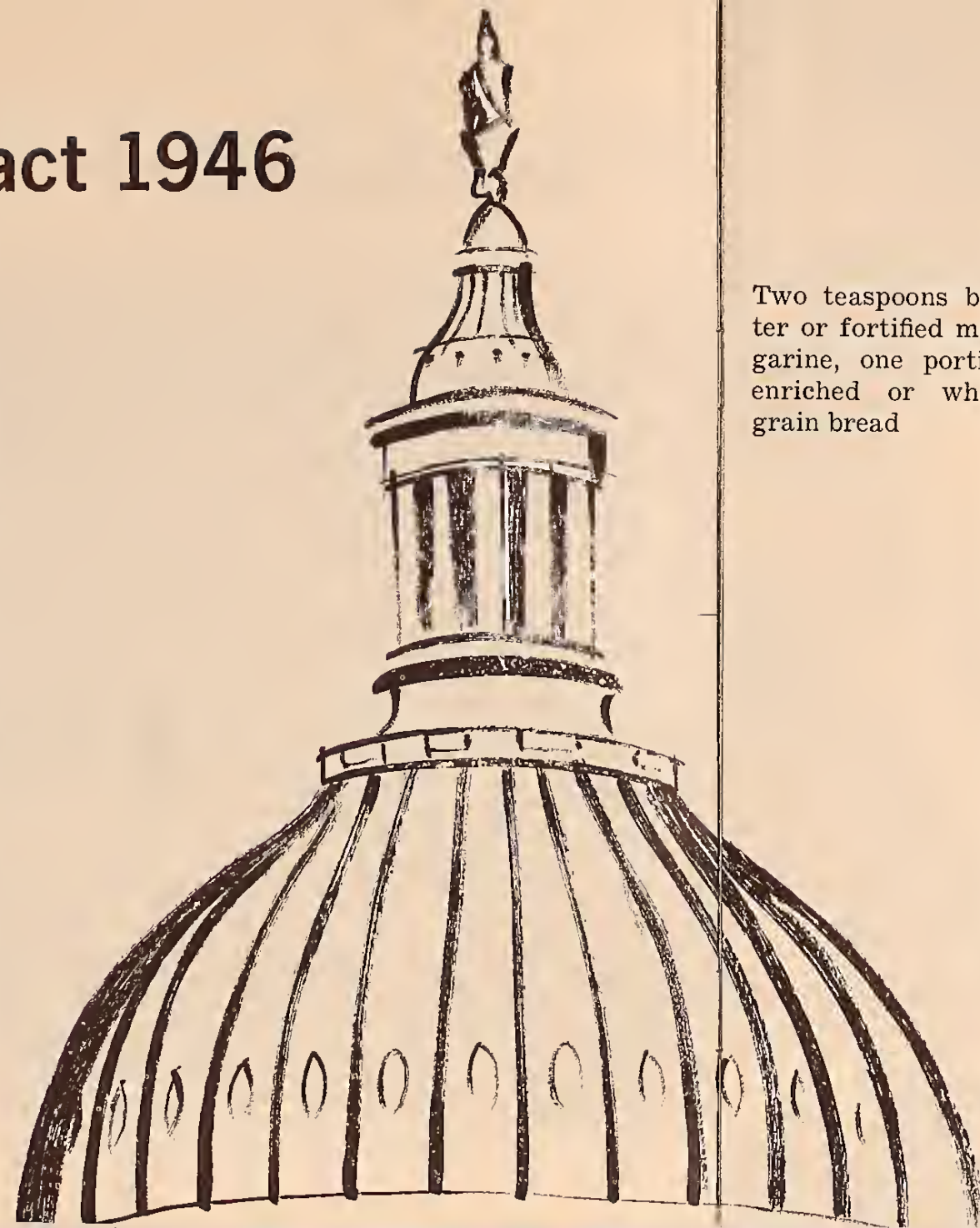
Federal aid to school lunch programs assumed new form during the 1930's. Because of the depression, surplus foods were donated to schools throughout the nation. This aid continued until World War II when reimbursement payments supplemented direct distribution of commodities.



national school lunch act 1946

Congress enacted permanent and basic legislation providing for the establishment, maintenance, operation, and expansion of the lunch program in the National School Lunch Act of 1946. By this Act the State Educational Agencies are given responsibility for administration of the program. The Secretary of Agriculture is responsible for establishing national standards and maintaining general supervision. In addition, the Act provides for an annual appropriation of funds by Congress. It also permits the Department of Agriculture to purchase and distribute commodities as well as to reimburse schools for a part of their local food costs. Under the National School Lunch Program, schools must agree to three basic regulations:

1. The lunch program must be operated on a non-profit basis.
2. Children unable to pay the full price of the lunch must be served free or at a reduced price.
3. Lunches must meet nutritional standards established by the United States Department of Agriculture. These standards are embodied in the lunch pattern known as the "Type A" lunch.



the type "A" lunch

Two teaspoons butter or fortified margarine, one portion enriched or whole grain bread



$\frac{1}{2}$ pint fluid whole milk

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup of at least two fruits and/or vegetable items

2 ounces protein-rich food (such as meat, fish, poultry, cheese, eggs, peanut butter, and beans)

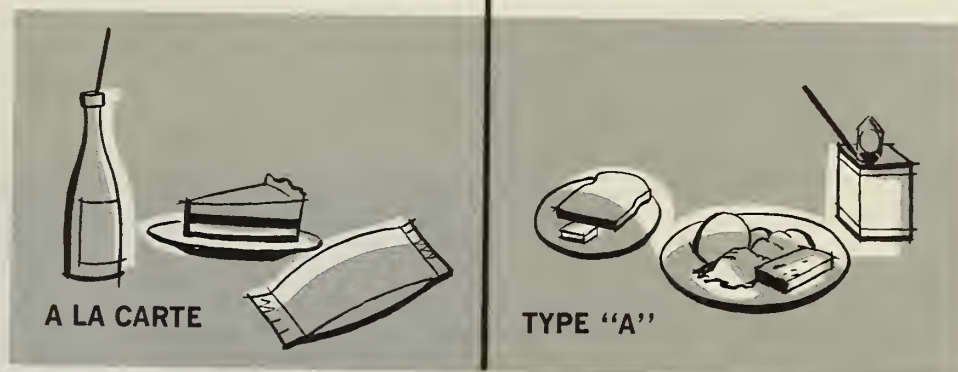
benefits to the student

The national school lunch program

- Provides a nutritious low-cost lunch.
- Gives free lunches to needy children.
- Meets from $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of the recommended daily dietary allowances.
- Develops sound food habits.
- Is one of the world's most extensive programs of applied nutrition.
- Teaches social graces.
- Builds an alert healthy citizenry.

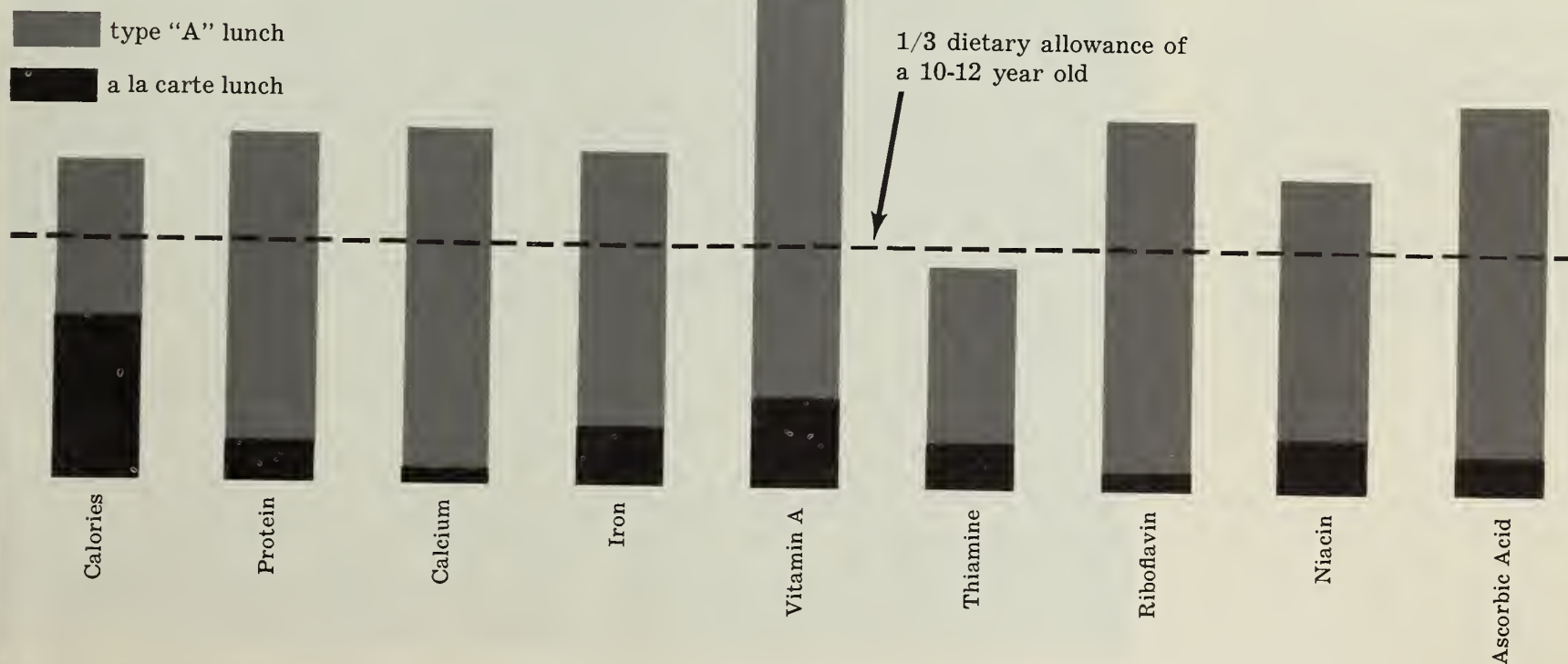


which lunch for your child?



Each costs about the same—but, look at the difference!

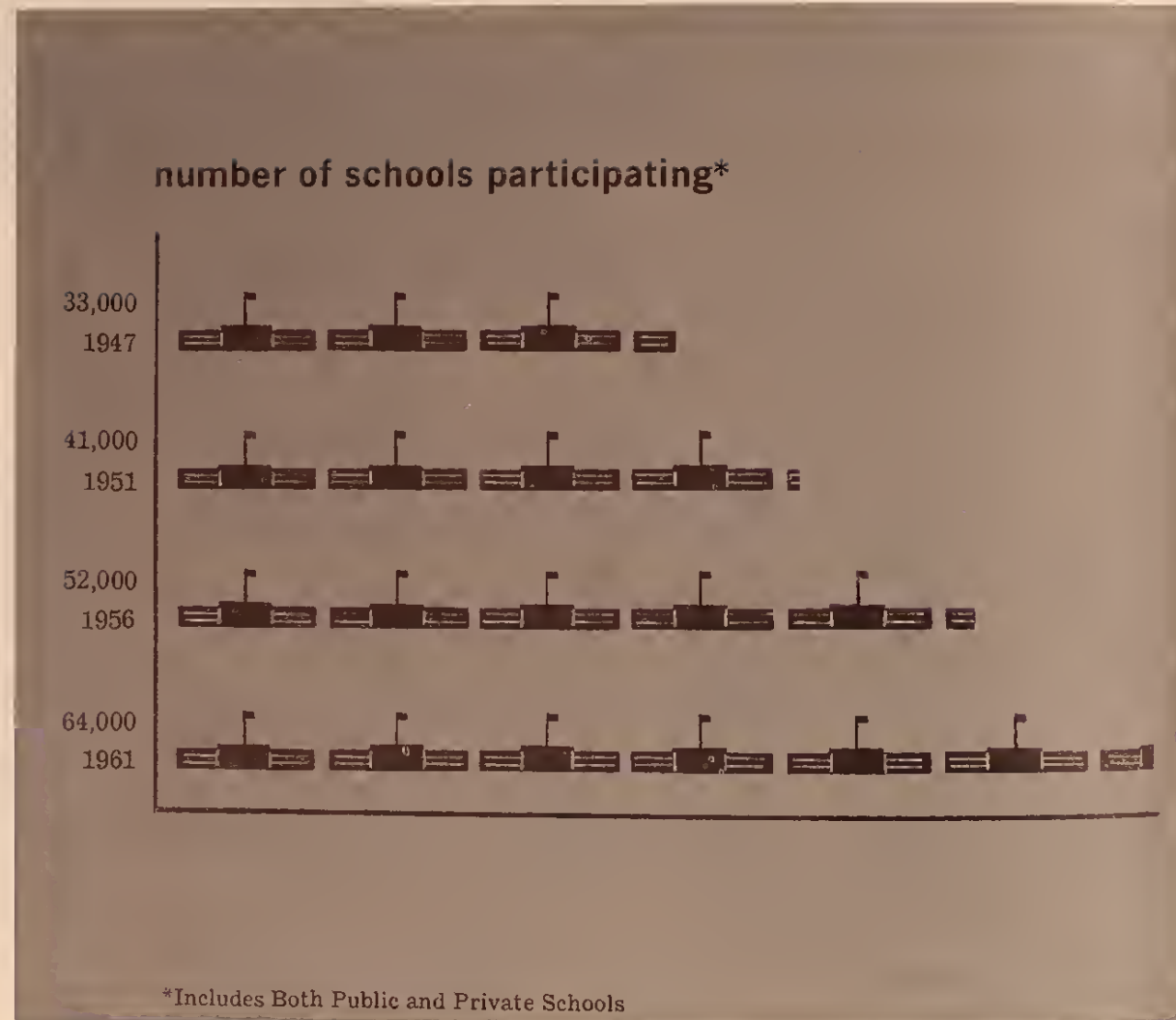
type "a" vs. a la carte





growth of the program

- The number of schools participating in the national school lunch program has almost *doubled* over the past 15 years.
- Lunches are now available in schools having two-thirds of the nation's total enrollment.



- In 1947, less than one of every six students received lunch under the program.
- During 1961, nearly one of every three students ate a type "A" lunch.

value to the farmer

Agriculture benefits from the program because it

- Creates an expanding market for farm products . . .
- Provides for better management of food abundance . . .
- Teaches children to eat a wide variety of foods . . .
- Helps develop sound food habits in tomorrow's adults.



food for thought

government donations to the 1961 school lunch program



Cheese
Dates
Grapefruit
Peanut Butter
Dry Milk
Lamb
Corn
Chicken
Cabbage
Lard
Apricots
Flour
Cherries
Beef
Corn Meal
Dried Eggs
Rice
Applesauce
Peaches
Green Beans
Tomatoes
Black Olives
Butter
Dry Beans
Turkey

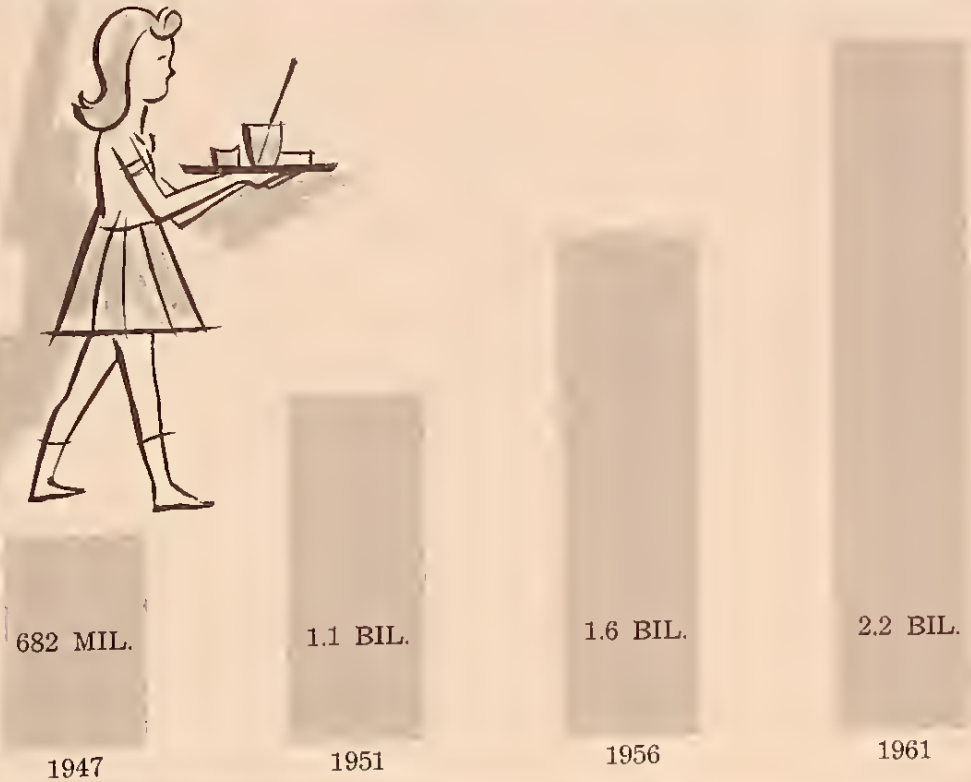


supply and demand

schools participating in the program during 1961 consumed the following amounts of food



number of lunches served under the national school lunch program



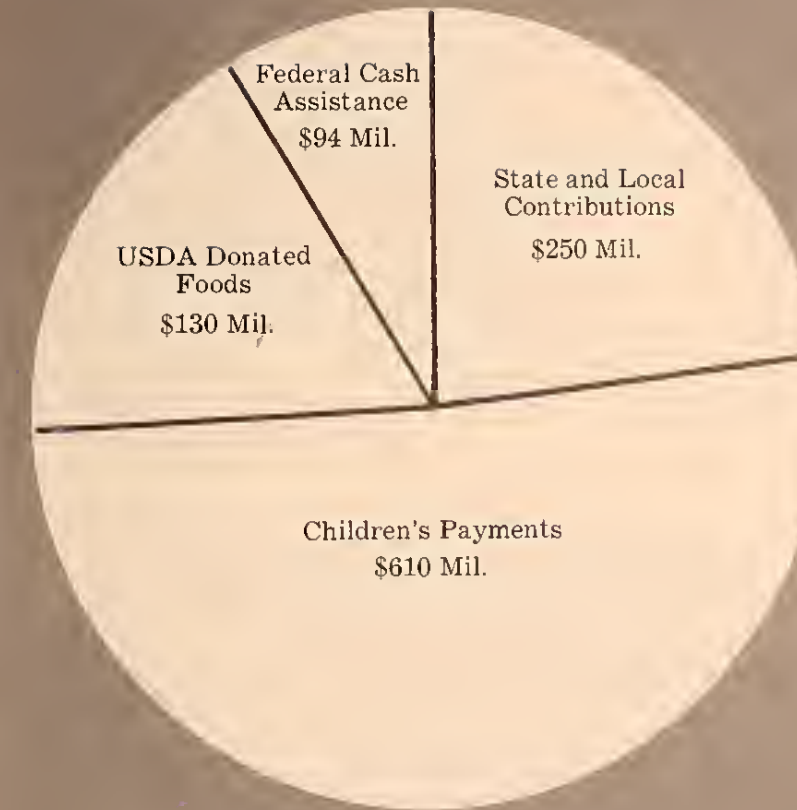
value to the nation

The rapid growth of the national school lunch program over the past 15 years is unqualified testimony to the success of this unique co-operative effort by federal, state, and local authorities. In addition the program insures:

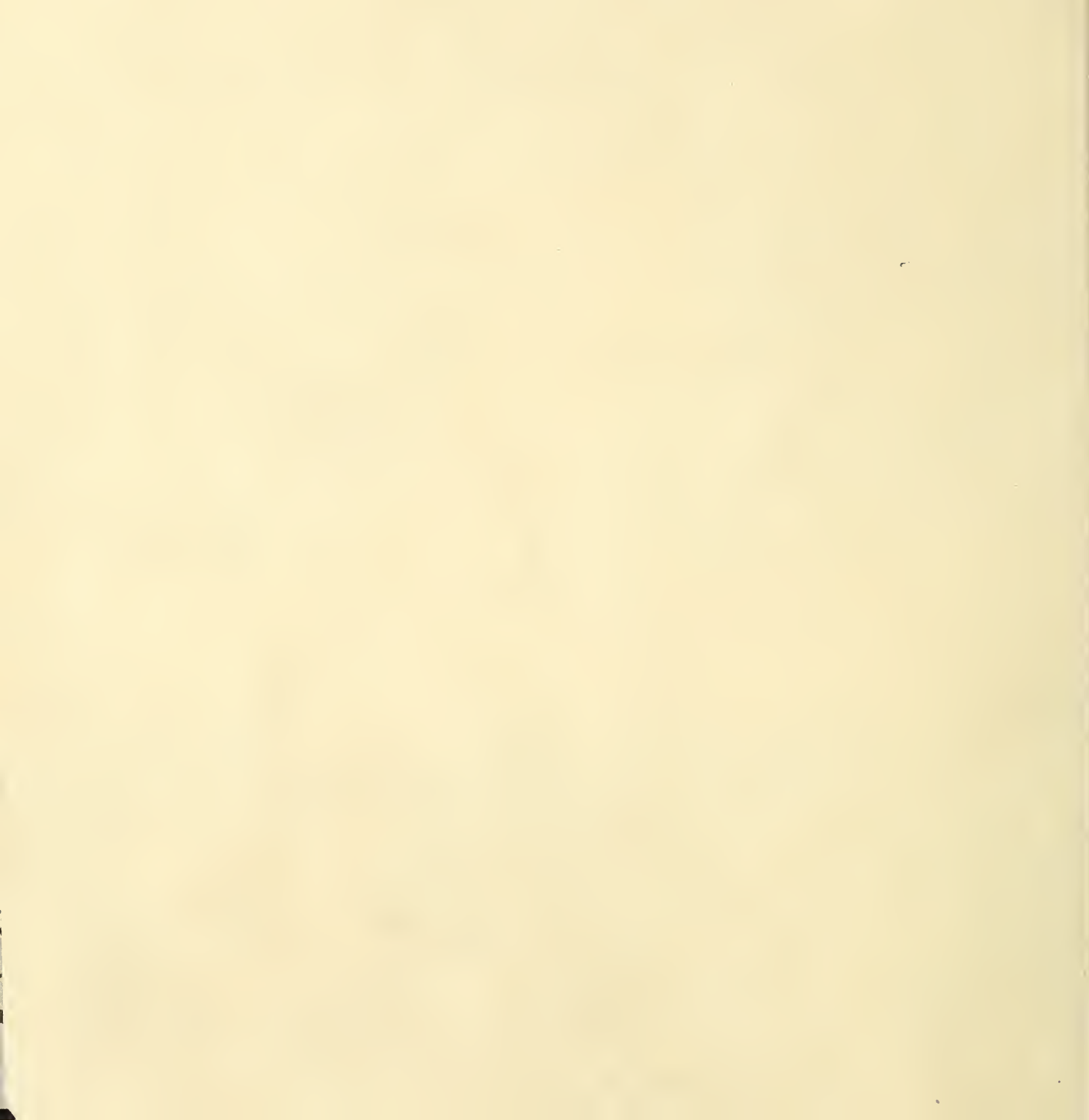
- Strong, well fed youth.
- More income for the farmer.
- Huge market for food trades.
- Jobs for lunchroom personnel.
- Employment for related industries.
- Constructive outlet for abundant commodities.
- Well-nourished students receptive to instruction.
- Healthier, wealthier nation.

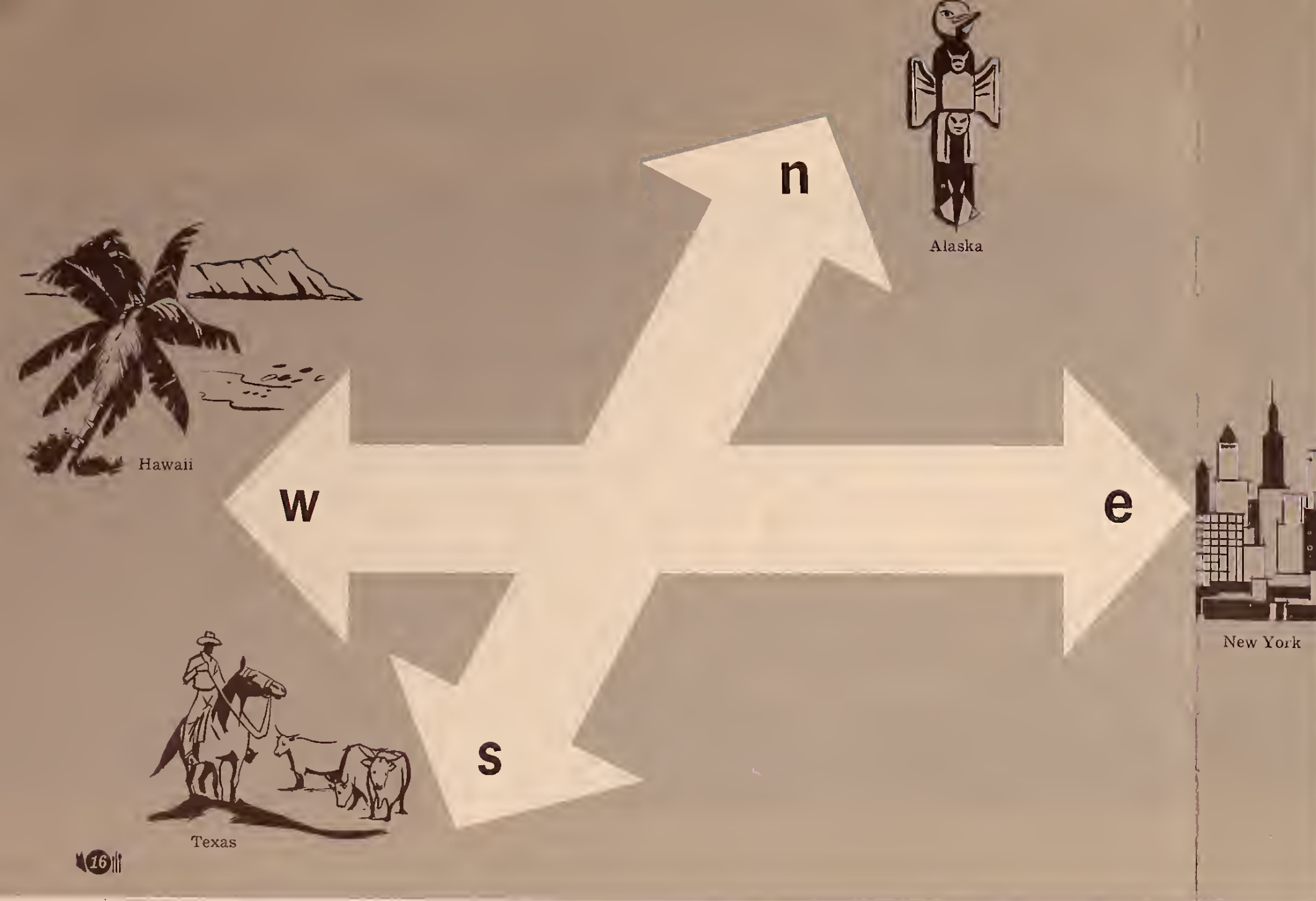


a billion dollar business



**IN 1961,
THE TOTAL
PROGRAM COST
WAS \$1,084,000,000
FROM ALL
SOURCES**





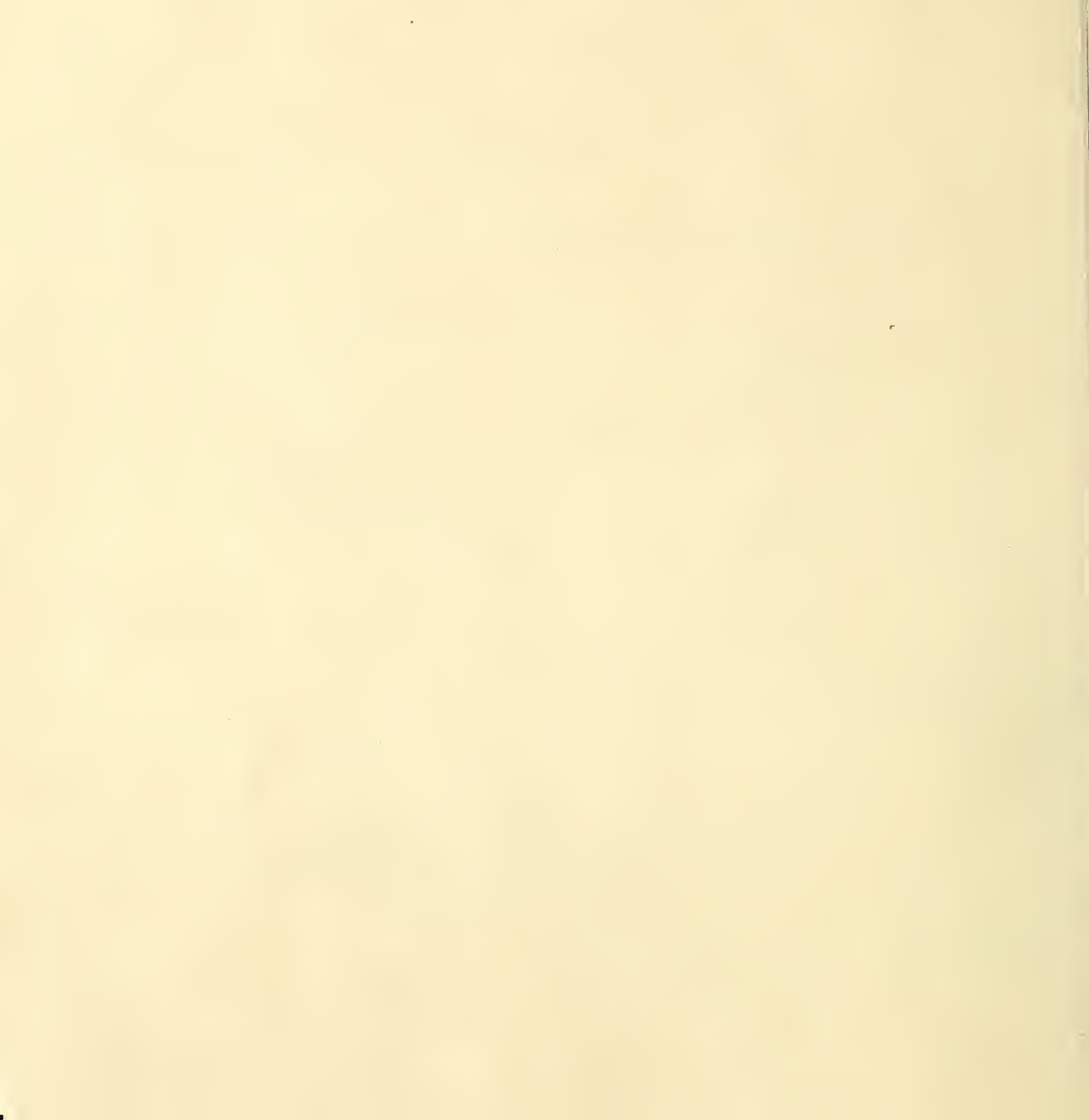
developments and trends

regardless of location, U.S. children now enjoy nutritious lunches through the national school lunch program

Advances over 15 years include:

- Extension of the program to all 50 states, plus Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Guam.
- Improved management and operating techniques.
- Plentiful foods information.
- School lunch workshops.
- Special assistance to distressed areas.



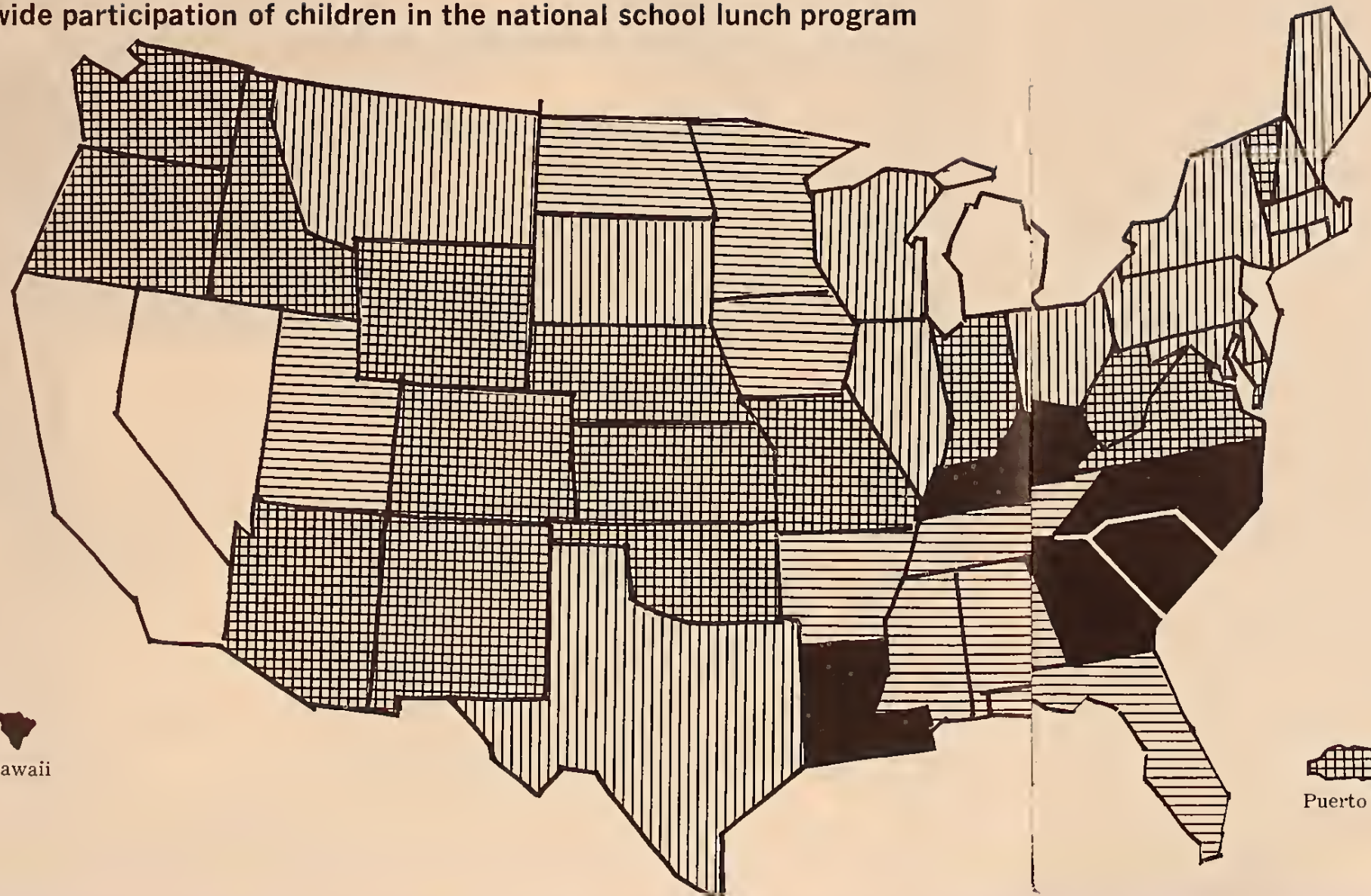
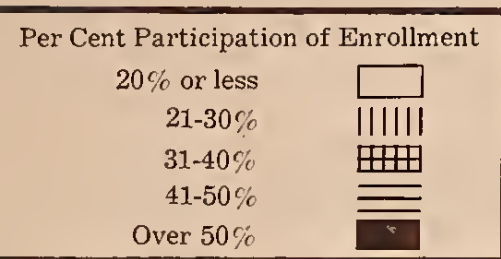


participation / today

nationwide participation of children in the national school lunch program



Alaska



Guam



Hawaii



Puerto Rico



Virgin Islands

/ tomorrow

- Greater participation
 - through normal enrollment growth,
 - in schools already in the program,
 - by extending the program to non-participating schools,
 - by including lunchroom facilities in newly constructed schools.
- Expanding markets for agricultural abundance.
- Increased local purchases.
- Better trained school lunch workers.
- A more nutrition-conscious people.

TESTIMONIAL

"As an uninvited guest at the educational banquet, school food service has successfully run the gamut of neglect, of scorn, of fear, of anger, and has now entered the approved portals which entitle it to a chair at the educational board."

E. Allen Bateman
Superintendent of Education
State of Utah
1945-1960



Growth Through Agricultural Progress